

Progress of Kudankulam Atomic Energy Project

2057. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the progress of Kudankulam Atomic Energy Project;
- (b) whether any agreement with Russia has been renewed after the collapse of the USSR:
- (c) what are the fresh terms and conditions entered into; and
- (d) whether there is any possibility of speeding up the work in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) & (b) A 'Supplement' to the Inter-Governmental co-operation Agreement (IGA) entered into between the Republic of India and erstwhile USSR in November 1988, has been signed by the Government of India and the Government of Russian Federation in June 1998. Subsequently, preparation of 'Detailed Project Report (DPR)' for the 2x1000 MWs Kudankulam Atomic Project with Russian VVER-1000 type reactors, has been taken up and is expected to be completed by mid 2001. Final decision on implementation of the Project would depend on the result of evaluation of its techno-economic viability on the DPR. In parallel, land acquisition and site investigations necessary for starting up the construction works at Kudankulam site, have been completed.

(c) As per the revised terms and conditions agreed by the Government of India and Government of the Russian Federation, vide the above mentioned IGA and Supplement, the Kudankulam Project will be implemented on a technical co-operation basis (instead of turnkey basis as envisaged earlier), wherein the design, equipment and capital services including overall supervision shall be provided by the Russian side and the construction responsibility shall be with the Indian side.

As per the revised financial terms agreed, the project cost shall be designated in US dollars and the Russian Government shall extend a State credit upto US \$2600 million at 4 per cent p.a. interest to cover

85 per cent of the cost of the Russian scope of supplies & services, which shall be repayable in 14 equal instalments, starting from one year after the scheduled commissioning of the project. The fuel for the entire life of the project shall also be supplied by the Russian side and 85 per cent of the cost of fuel shall be covered under the State Credit. The spent fuel shall be stored and reprocessed by Government of India and the reprocessed materials shall be retained and used in India under IAEA safeguards.

(d) The work on the design of the project (DPR work) is progressing as per schedule. Both Indian and Russian sides have agreed to advance the finalisation of the Project cost parameters of the techno-commercial offer, to enable an early decision by Government of India on start of the construction works at Kudankulam site. In parallel, a proposal for taking up first phase of infrastructure works at Kudankulam has been initiated.

Threat to Chennai from Kalpakkam Atomic Power Plant

2058. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kalpakkam Atomic Power Plant is a threat to Chennai and its surrounding places as number of reports have been in the air for quite sometime;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have thought of upgrading the Kalpakkam Atomic Power Plant;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what are the programmes taken up in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Although the present operating and safety systems of Madras